

# BARNACK RURAL DISTRICT.

## *Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year, 1938.*

### Public Health Officers of the Authority :

**Medical Officer of Health.**—W. Anley Hawes, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Lond., Part time.

District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator Under Poor Law.—W. Anley Hawes, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Lond.

**Sanitary Inspector** Mr. C. Green, M.S.I.A., A.R., San. I.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

I herewith beg to submit my report for the year 1938.

### SECTION A.

Area, 14,546 Acres.

Total Population 2,340.

No. of Inhabited Houses, 527 (including 35 at Wittering Aerodrome).

Rateable Value, £13,352.

Sum represented by penny rate, £56.

*Social Condition.*—The main industry is Agriculture. One factory for Electrical Equipment is situated on the outskirts of Stamford. No work injurious to health is performed.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births.	Legitimate	{	36.15.	21	Birth rate per 1000 of estimated resident population is 15.8
	Illegitimate				
			1.	1	
Still Births.	Legitimate		3.	2.	
Deaths.			24	16	8
					Death rate per 1000 population is 10.2
Deaths from puerperal sepsis			0	0	0
Deaths from other puerperal causes.				Nil.	

### Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	54
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	55
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil.

### Corresponding Rates for England and Wales.

Birth rate 15.1 increase of .2 compared with 1937.

Death rate 11.6 decrease of .8 compared with 1937.

Infantile Mortality 53 decrease of 5 compared with 1937.

There has been an *increase* in the Birth Rate of 4.1 compared with 1937.

There has been a decrease in the Death Rate of 2.1 compared with 1937.

The Infantile Mortality Rate has 46 per 1,000

## **SECTION B.**

### *(a) Laboratory Facilities.*

Examination of sputum is carried out by the County Medical Officer of Health. Swabs from throats are sent to the Clinical Research Association, London, the account being paid by the District Council on being passed by the Medical Officer of Health. No Laboratory facilities exist in the district.

### *(b) Ambulance Facilities.*

(i.) Infectious Cases. Owing to the closure at the end of 1938 of the Isolation Blocks of the Stamford and Rutland General Infirmary the Ambulance of the Peterborough Isolation Hospital is now used.

(ii.) Non-infectious cases and accidents. Two good ambulances of the Stamford Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade: and one of the same Brigade at Wansford, are available. The work of the Brigades is excellent in every way. It is entirely voluntary and supplies an indispensable service.

### *(c) Nursing in the Home.*

(i.) *General.*—Arrangements are in existence for the provision in the home of professional nursing for patients in the district for all the villages. This nursing service being controlled and maintained by the District Nursing Association and is quite independent of the Council.

(ii.) *Infectious Cases.*—The contract for the treatment of infectious cases at Stamford Infirmary ceased on the 31st December, 1938. All cases are now sent to the Isolation Hospital of the Peterborough City Corporation.

### *(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.*

No clinics actually exist in the district.

There is an ante-natal system of examination and treatment, which includes the advice of an obstetric consultant.

### *(e) Hospitals : Public and Voluntary.*

There is no hospital situated in the district. Cases requiring hospital treatment are admitted to the Stamford, Rutland & General Infirmary. Obstetrical emergencies and complicated labour cases are treated in the Maternity Wing of the above hospital, the cost being borne by the County Council. Accommodation is adequate. No Public Hospitals are situated in the district, necessitous cases being removed to Peterborough.

## **Section C.**

### **1 (i.) Water.**

(a) The piped supply from the bore at Barnack to the villages of Barnack, Pilsgate, Bainton, Ashton and Ufford has proved in every way satisfactory.

(b) The piped supply from the Spring at Thornhaugh has been quite satisfactory.

(c) The parishes of Wothorpe and St. Marrin's Without are provided with a piped supply from the Stamford Borough Water Works.

Two villages only are now without a piped supply and still depend on wells, viz., Southorpe and Wittering. No cases of water shortage from these villages have been reported during the year.

(ii.) *Drainage and Sewerage.*—That of surface water only.

**2 Rivers and Streams.**—No action has been necessary with regard to river pollution.

**3 (i.) Closet Accommodation.**—The pail closet is in use in the district: all new houses being built are provided with water-closet, septic tank and soak-away.

(ii.) *Public Cleansing*.—There is a system of collection by the Council Scavenger of the pail closets and dry-house refuse throughout the district.

(iii.) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area*.

(a) No. of Inspections made, 385.

(b) No. of Notices served—Statutory 1 ; Informal 39.

(c) Result of such Notices—3 outstanding at end of year.

(iv.) *Shops*.—No. of actions taken Nil.

(v.) *Camping Sites*. None exist.

(vi.) *Smoke Abatement*.—No action taken.

(vii.) *Swimming Baths and Pools*.—None in the District.

(viii.) *Eradication of Bed Bugs*. No houses have been disinfected.

**4. Schools**.—The pail closet is in use in all the schools. Barnack has a twice weekly collection by scavenger. Water has now been laid on.

During the early part of the year there was an outbreak of Diptheria in Barnack. Five cases being reported of which 4 were school children.

After the second case was discovered I examined all the school children and excluded one child from school on account of a suspicious throat. This led to discovering three cases just commencing in the child's house, one patient being the mother of the family.

All contacts were stopped : and isolation from school carried out.

## **Section D. Housing.**

**1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—**

(i.) (a) Total Number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts), 385.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose, 582.

(ii.) (a) Number of Houses (included under sub-head (i.) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925, 55.

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose, 221.

(iii.) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, 6.

(iv.) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) not found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 49.

**2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices :—**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action taken by the Local Authority or their Officers, 39.

**3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—**

**A. Proceeding under Secs. 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.**

(i.) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, Nil.

(ii.) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By Owners, Nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners, nil.

**B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—**

(i.) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, 14.

(ii.) Number of Houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By Owners, 14.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners, Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of Housing Act, 1930.

- (i.) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, Nil.
- (ii.) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, Nil.
- (iii.) Number of Houses demolished following informal action, 2.

D. Proceedings under Section 20 of Housing Act, 1930.

- (i.) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made, Nil.
- (ii.) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit, Nil.

4. Housing Act 1936. Part iv. Overcrowding :—

- (a) (i.) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year, 8.
- (ii.) Number of families dwelling therein, 8.
- (iii.) Number of persons dwelling therein, 42.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year, Nil.
- (c) (i.) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, 8.
- (ii.) Number of persons concerned in such cases.
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding, Nil.
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report. No overcrowding in district.

**Section E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

- (a) *Milk Supply.*
  - (b) *Meat and other Foods.*
  - (c) *Adulteration.* No action taken.
  - (d) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.* No action taken.
- 156 inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies were made during the year.  
No samples were taken for bacteriological examination by this Council.

5. *Carcases Inspected and condemned.*

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)					
Number inspected	52	—	2	70	56
All diseases except tuberculosis whole carcases condemned					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned					
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis					
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned					
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis					

(e) *Nutrition.*—No measures have been taken. The area being rural, all inhabitants are quite able to obtain adequate supplies of dairy produce and vegetables. No cases of malnutrition were reported.

(f) *Shell-fish* (Molluscan), Nil.



## Section F.—Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

The contract for treatment of specified infectious diseases at the Stamford Rutland and General Infirmary ended on 31st December, 1938, the isolation blocks of this institution having been finally closed down on this date.

Arrangements have been made for the admission of cases of Typhoid, Para-typhoid, Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever to the Isolation Hospital of Peterborough City; cases only being admitted if beds are available, no contract having been given.

Cases of Puerperal Fever in the past have been admitted to Stamford Infirmary—this hospital has now no accommodation for such cases—the treatment of which will be difficult.

The closure of the Stamford Infirmary Isolation Blocks will be keenly felt should any epidemic arise.

### *Prevalence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.*

During the early part of the year there were 8 cases of Diphtheria reported—none of which were however of the “*gravis*” type.

Two cases were adults, five were school children and one a child of one year. Seven of the cases occurred in Barnack, one at Southorpe.

From the outbreak at the School it seemed certain that the infection was spread by a carrier. I therefore inspected all the children present and isolated one suspicious child. This led to the detection of several members of the child’s family having sore throats. Bacteriological examination of these throats proved two to be Diphtheria. Two days later two further members of the family contracted Diphtheria.

In all twenty swabs were taken of school children, the school being disinfected and carbolized during a week end.

The school was “*schick-tested*” by me with a view to artificial immunization. No system of immunization is provided.

There were no cases of Scarlet Fever and no epidemic of other streptococcal infections.

### *Non notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.*

*Measles and Whooping-cough.*—Here again with the closure of the Stamford Isolation Blocks no provision is now in force for treatment of complicated cases. Should such cases occur endeavours will have to be made for admission to Peterborough.

No provision is made for measles serum.

The Council is one of the constituent authorities of the Kesteven and Rutland Small-pox Joint Committee, and a Hospital is maintained at Shacklewell Hollow in the County of Rutland for and cases that may arise. The maintenance of this Hospital is shared by the surrounding districts and Stamford Borough. There is accommodation in the Hospital for 20 beds. There were no cases during the past year.

No vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been formed under the Public Health (Small-pox prevention) Regulation, 1917.

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	Eight	Eight	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Para-Typhoid)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	One	One	Nil
Pneumonia	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other Diseases, generally notifiable	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil	Nil	Nil

(a) *Cancer.*—There has been no undue prevalence of Cancer in the District.

(b) *Prevention of Blindness.*—Nil.

(c) *Tuberculosis.*—New cases and mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.	<i>New Cases.</i>		<i>Deaths.</i>	
	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
25	2		1	
45	1			

*5 July 1938.*  
*W. B. D.P.H. Secy.*

# BARNACK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## *Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1938.*

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Herewith for your consideration, I respectfully beg to submit my Annual Report of work carried out during the year 1938.

As far as practicable, the whole of the district has been systematically inspected throughout the year, and necessary action taken to deal with sanitary defects or nuisances discovered.

The district has a small and sparsely populated area, the main industry being Agriculture.

With few exceptions it has been possible to get all necessary matters arising under Public Health and Housing Acts, attended to without having to resort for formal report and Statutory action.

### *Inspections, Complaints, Notices.*

Inspections. 385. Re-visits 197.

Complaints. 17 formally received. Action was necessary in 14 cases.

Notices. 39 Informal and 1 Statutory Notices were served under Public Health and Housing Acts.

### *Nuisances Abated and Sanitary Defects Remedied.*

Drains cleared, cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	6
New drains laid or partly re-laid	...	...	...	10
New vent shafts fixed or shafts repaired	...	...	...	4
" D " traps removed	...	...	...	4
E.C. buildings repaired	...	...	...	8
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	14
R.W. pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	12
Windows repaired or made to open	...	...	...	10
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	4
Paving repaired or renewed	...	...	...	3
Wash-houses provided	...	...	...	2
New sinks provided	...	...	...	2
Internal repairs to houses	...	...	...	29
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	...	...	...	5
				<hr/> 95 <hr/>

### *House Inspection.*

Informal inspections of 143 houses were made during the year. At 55 houses a detailed survey of the whole house was made under the appropriate regulations, and necessary action taken to have the various defects discovered, remedied.

At 39 houses repair work has been completed, while repair work to 14 houses at Barnack was not quite completed at the end of the year, and repair work to 2 houses at Thornhaugh had not been commenced.

Ninety-eight re-visits and several personal calls on owners were made during the year in connection with notices served.

As the result of informal action five cottages at Barnack and one at Wittering which by reason of delapidations were not considered possible of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost, have been closed by the owners.

Two empty cottages at Wittering which were in a dangerous condition have been demolished. An old cottage at Barnack which had been empty for a number of years has been re-conditioned and converted into a very nice dwelling house.

#### *Overcrowding.*

Only one case of overcrowding was discovered during the year. This was at Thornhaugh, and was abated by the owner adding another bedroom to the house.

#### *Housing (Rural Workers) Act.*

Only one application for assistance under the above Act was received during the year. This was for the conversion of coach-houses at Wansford into 4 cottages. Two were completed during the year and two were nearing completion at the end of the year.

The work of re-conditioning a cottage at Barnack and in respect of which a loan was made to the owner, was completed during the year.

#### *Infectious Diseases.*

The number of infectious disease cases dealt with during the year has been six distributed as follows :—

Parish.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.
Barnack	5	—
Southorpe	1	—
	<hr/> 6	

Number of rooms disinfected 10.

The School at Barnack was also disinfected on the instructions of the Medical Officer of Health.

#### *Factory Act, 1937.*

The new Factory Act which came into force on the 1st July of the year under review, is designed to secure safe and healthy working conditions in manufacturing and certain other operations. It replaces the Factory and Workshops Act of 1901, and various latter Acts. The old distinction between a "Factory" and a "Workshop" has disappeared, only one term "Factory" being employed.

With the exception of a Factory for Electrical Equipment situate in the parish of St. Martin's Without, the remainder in the district are small one man businesses.

Periodical inspections have been made during the year and nothing has arisen that calls for special report.

#### *Bakehouses.*

There are only 4 bakehouses in use in the district and these are kept in a reasonably clean condition.

34 inspections were made during the year.

#### *Shops' Act, 1934.*

The few shops in the district are small general stores with living accommodation and no assistants are employed.

There are now only 2 slaughter-houses in use in the district, one at Wansford having been demolished during the year.

#### *Slaughter-houses and Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.*

119 inspections of slaughter-houses and shops were made during the year, no meat was condemned and there is nothing special to report.

#### *Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. Dairies and Cowsheds.*

The particulars of the Register for the year are :—

(1) Producers (Retail) having registered premises in the district	9	
(2) Producers (Butter) having registered premises in the district	12	
	<hr/>	21

Registered during the year :—

Producers (wholesale) having registered premises in the district	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total		22



156 inspections of cowsheds and dairies were made during the year. The premises of the larger cowkeepers are well up to standard, while the premises of those who keep only 2 or 3 cows and make a little butter are kept fairly clean. Generally the methods of milking and distribution are quite good.

*Plans.*

Six plans were submitted for approval during the year as against five for the year 1937.

*Housing and Buildings.*

Plans have been deposited for dwelling houses to be erected by private enterprise distributed as follows :—

Wansford 5.

Plans for re-conditioning cottages :—

Barnack 2.

Houses erected and completed during the year :—

Wansford 2.                      Ufford 1.

Houses re-conditioned or additions made :—

Barnack 2.                      Thornhaugh 1.

*Drainage and Sewage Disposal.*

There are no recognized systems of sewage collection and disposal in the district, the waste water from houses (other than Council Houses) discharging chiefly into surface water drains.

The drainage from the Council houses discharge into cesspits which are skimmed and cleansed by contract, and the work appears to be carried out satisfactorily.

*Refuse Collection and Disposal.*

A system of refuse collection and disposal for the whole of the district was commenced during the year. The work is carried out by Contract and appears to be carried out in a satisfactory manner. The Contract was entered into in conjunction with the Peterborough R.D.C., and one central tip is used which is situate in the Peterborough rural area. One advantage of this has been that several small and untidy tips in various parts of the districts are not now used.

The collection of night-soil in the various parishes is carried out by Contract, No complaints have been received, and the work appears to be carried out satisfactorily.

*Water Supplies.*

A piped supply of water is available in the following villages :—Wansford, Thornhaugh, Barnack, Bainton, Ufford, St. Martin's Without and Wothorpe.

The supply to the two last named are taken from the Stamford Waterworks Company's Mains and the others from the Councils own supplies.

Wittering and Southorpe are now the only parishes in the district without a piped supply.

Samples of water taken from the public supplies during the year have been satisfactory.

*Petroleum Acts.*

Periodical inspections of premises used for the storage of Petroleum Spirit have been made during the year, the conditions required by the Act being in all cases complied with.

I am, My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. GREEN.

March, 1939.